

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration in view of the herewith presented amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 51, 52, and 54 are pending in this application.

Claim 54 has been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 54 has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome this objection.

Claims 51, 52 and 54 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tinnerman and Shirai.

Applicant respectfully traverses both of these rejections.

Dealing first of all with the prior art reference U.S. 2,342,170 applicants note that here a screw is used to secure a first component A to a sheet metal part B. The screw is inserted through a hole in the sheet metal part B and through two tongues 24, 25 of a further sheet metal part 21 riveted to the sheet metal part B. The two tongues engage in the thread and cooperate with longitudinal grooves of the screw such as 15 in order to achieve a security against rotation. This security against rotation can, however, be overcome by undoing the screw.

In the Examiner's analysis of this document the Examiner ignores the fact that the head 11 is formed in the manner of a counter-sunk screw head and not by the one end of a threaded pin of constant diameter. Furthermore, the Examiner objects to the interpretation of the term "pot-like recess" which we selected and asserts that the two tongues would form a pot-like recess. Applicants believe that this is not correct. Furthermore, the Examiner ignores the fact that the tongues are not formed from the sheet metal part B itself, but rather belong to a separate sheet metal part 21 which is riveted to the sheet metal part B.

In any event, applicants have amended the formation of claim 54 to describe the pot-like recess more clearly, i.e., it is now described as a “cylindrical recess of the sheet metal part with a continuous base.”

The second U.S. document U.S. 4,818,615 is concerned with a different concept. Here, a threaded sleeve is screwed into a plastic part and is itself intended to accept a screw. The threaded sleeve admittedly has a form with an outer thread and interruptions of thread; however, the interruptions of the thread are described with reference to the numeral 26 in Fig. 6 as the “bottom of the external thread 25 of the threaded element 20” (see col. 6, lines 2 to 68, especially lines 16 to 24. The portions 26, which the examiner evidently regards as the interruptions of the thread, are defined between three tapping lobes each of which is said (col. 6, lines 9 to 13) to consist “of two cutting arcs formed on opposite ends of the lobes and a convex escape-gap arc intermediate the two convex cutting arcs.” The interruptions 26 are thus associated with the tapping operation by which the element 20 is threaded into the plastic part. Moreover, it is clear that the plastic part is not a sheet metal part with a pot-like recess which is formed by deformation of the sheet metal part with a pot-like recess which is formed by deformation of the sheet metal part itself, far less is the plastic deformed into the interruptions 26. Instead, the interruptions 26 are simply located within the thread cut in the plastic part. Furthermore it is also clear that the threaded sleeve does not project out of the pot-like recess. It is thus believed that when applicants revise the description of the pot-like recess in the sheet metal part in claim 54 as noted above, i.e. as a cylindrical recess formed from the sheet metal part, that applicants have overcome this rejection.

For the above reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections.

It is believed that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the rejections made in the Official Action. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

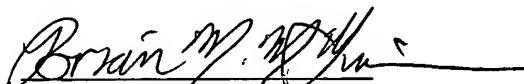
If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at ecr@gtlaw.com.

No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: November 22, 2005

By: Respectfully submitted,



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